

The 10 Commandments: Do Not Steal

Reflect

1. Have you ever had anything stolen from you?
2. How did it make you feel?
3. What motivates someone to steal? What happens to them and to those they hurt by their actions?

Read Your Bible

- Deuteronomy 5:19
- John 10:7-10

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. What is commanded in Deuteronomy 5:19?
2. What does it mean?
3. What are things that are stolen in this world?
4. In John 10, Jesus has something to say about thieves and robbers. What does he say?
5. What does Jesus say his purpose for coming into the world is?
6. How is the life Jesus offers different than the life the thieves and robbers live? What is an abundant life?
7. How has Jesus blessed you abundantly?

Conclusion

This commandment seems simple enough. Do not steal. It would seem like a principle that most people could get behind. The commandment is much deeper. In his Small Catechism written in 1529, Martin Luther offers a helpful explanation of this simple command. He writes that not only are we not to take from our neighbor, but instead “help him to improve and protect his property and means of making a living.” The commandment is not simply about what we should not do, but also about what we should do in caring for the lives of those around us. Jesus makes an important statement as he pairs thieves with the life that he offers. He says that thieves kill and destroy but he offers an abundant life. Stealing comes from not having what we need or want. It is motivated by necessity and greed, but Jesus gives us a life where we have what we need, salvation, eternity, and hope in Him.

Pray

Father in Heaven, you have come into the world so that we might have life. Teach us to know what we truly need and where it truly comes from, life in You. Bless us by the power of your Holy Spirit and draw us closer to you today. In Jesus' name. Amen.